

PROCESS FOR RESOLVING PUBLIC LANDS ISSUES WITH US FOREST SERVICE

1. Public Lands Issue/problem brought up to **CHAPTER**
2. **CHAPTER** determines whether it is something that affects our mission
 - a. No – drop issue
 - b. Yes – continue to #3
3. Have **CHAPTER ISSUES COMMITTEE** work with local Ranger.
 - a. Ranger solves – done
 - b. No luck – continue to #4 and keep **CHAPTER** informed
4. Take it up with **FOREST SUPERVISOR** and inform **STATE BCH** of issue
 - a. Keep **CHAPTER** and **STATE** informed
 - b. **STATE** confirms that it meets BCH mission
 - c. **STATE** informs **BCHA** through **PUBLIC LANDS REGIONAL COMMITTEE**
 - i. Issue solved – done
 - ii. No luck – continue to #5
5. Ask **STATE ISSUES COMMITTEE/OFFICERS** to take it up with **REGIONAL FORESTER** through **REGIONAL VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR**
 - a. Keep **CHAPTER** and **BCHA** informed
 - b. Depending on issue, may ask **BCHA PUBLIC LANDS** to help on a regional level. **BCHA PUBLIC LANDS** confirms issue meets BCH mission
 - c. Keep **CHAPTER, STATE, and BCHA** informed
 - i. Problem solved – done
 - ii. No luck – continue to #6
6. **BCHA** will determine whether to use legal action and/or calls in legislators to assist, as well as calling on partners to help resolve issue.
 - a. At any point you should use and ask other volunteer groups to help you, ie local hiking groups, bike groups, Wilderness Society, etc

This proposal has worked well for us. The better the day-to-day relationship is with local rangers and agency personnel, the fewer issues you will have – you will be asked to participate in the discussion and decision-making process rather than challenging the decision after it has been made.

This process will work with other agencies, not just the USFS.

If your State Officers or Issues Cmte has an annual meeting at a Regional level, this will help you when working with USFS Supervisor relationships. Your chapter should have annual meetings with the Supervisor; this will help you at a Ranger level.

Meet with Rangers *often*. Invite them to your meetings; it will make their job easier.

When the above outlined process is used, be careful about sharing information from a Regional level that has not yet gotten down to a Ranger level on the USFS side. The Ranger relationship will not go well when you know more about the policies and procedures than they do! They will consider it an us-against-them situation instead of a collaboration.

It will take a long time to build a relationship and then maintain them due to USFS people moving around and retiring.

We are at a point where we are being asked to add input on most all projects or policy changes that are being considered by our USFS.